

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:HMCCOWN:BAS

APPROVED BY EUR/IB - ELLWOOD RABENOLD

EUR/P - MR. GEHRON

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P 262155Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP

SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE ON NYT STORY ON AFC EXTENSION

1. NEW YORK TIMES NOVEMBER 26 CARRIED JOHN FINNEY STORY  
DATELINED WASHINGTON ENTITLED "MADRID MAY ASK DEFENSE  
TREATY." USIS SENDING SAME BY DTS/USINFO.

2. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE DEVELOPED FOR QUESTIONS AT NOON  
PRESS BRIEFING MAY BE OF USE TO EMBASSY IN RESPONDING  
TO LOCAL INQUIRIES (NO QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT'S  
BRIEFER NOV. 26):

QUESTION: AS I RECALL IN 1970 WHEN THIS AGREEMENT  
WAS REACHED, THE ADMINISTRATION STRONGLY DEFENDED IN THE  
CONGRESS THE IDEA THAT AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT WAS PRE-  
FERABLE TO A TREATY. NOW YOU SAY YOU MIGHT GO ALONG WITH  
A TREATY CONCEPT. WHY THIS CHANGE IN POSITION?

ANSWER: WE ARE SIMPLY SAYING WE WILL CONSIDER THE  
TREATY FORM. THAT DOES NOT REPRESENT A POSITION.

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QUESTION: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT VIEW THE PRESENT AGREEMENT AS AN UNWRITTEN COMMITMENT TO DEFEND SPAIN?

ANSWER: OUR AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN DOES NOT EMBODY ANY COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF SPAIN. THIS QUESTION WAS THOROUGHLY AIRED IN 1970 IN HEARINGS BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THAT RECORD IF YOU WISH TO PURSUE THIS MATTER.

QUESTION: DID WE, WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC NOTICE TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, HAVE AIR FORCE TANKERS USING THE BASE FOR A FEW DAYS TO REFUEL F-4 PHANTOM JETS BEING FERRIED TO ISRAEL?

ANSWER: AS A GENERAL OBSERVATION AND WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SPAIN, AND AS I HAVE SAID HERE BEFORE, I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF MATTERS INVOLVING OUR RESUPPLY EFFORT TO ISRAEL.

QUESTION: IT IS REPORTED THAT WHEN SPAIN ANNOUNCED SHE WOULD NOT PERMIT OUR USING THE BASES TO RESUPPLY ISRAEL, THAT WE RAISED NO OBJECTION SINCE THERE WAS A SECRET UNDERSTANDING ACCOMPANYING THE 1970 AGREEMENT THAT THE BASES COULD NOT BE USED FOR OPERATIONS INVOLVING AN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. IS THAT THE CASE?

ANSWER: THERE IS NO SECRET AGREEMENT WHICH EITHER EMBODIES A DEFENSE COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES OR IN SOME WAY SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTS OUR USE OF THE BASES IN SPAIN.

QUESTION: WHAT IS OUR VIEW ABOUT SPAIN JOINING NATO?

ANSWER: WE SUPPORT SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. HOWEVER, SUCH A DECISION MUST BE AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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